

14. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors containing a DNA insert are present at a low copy number.

15. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said first copy number is a high copy number and said second copy number is a low copy number.

16. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors comprise at least one copy number indicator for indicating the copy number of said vectors in cells.

17. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein said copy number indicator comprises a selectable marker.

18. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said screening step comprises determining the copy number of a vector.

19. (New) A method to determine the copy number of a vector comprising a truncated lacZ gene, said method comprising the steps of: WD

introducing said vector into a host cell, wherein said truncated lacZ gene, when present at a high copy number in said host cells, confers dark blue coloration to said host cells grown on a medium containing Xgal and IPTG, and wherein said truncated lacZ gene, when present at a low copy number in said host cells, confers light blue coloration to said host cells grown on said medium; and

determining the color of the host cells when the host cells are grown on said medium.

~~20.~~ (New) A method to determine the copy number of a vector comprising the strA+ gene, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing said vector into a streptomycin resistant host cell, wherein said host cells are unable to grow in the presence of streptomycin when the strA gene is present at a high copy number and wherein said host cells are able to grow in the presence of streptomycin when the strA gene is present at a low copy number; and

determining the ability of said host cells to grow on a medium containing streptomycin.

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Remarks

Applicant has canceled Claims 1-9 and added new Claims 11-20. Accordingly, Claims 10-20 are pending for examination.